

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
HELD AT CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 16, 2011
7:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Goergen called the meeting to order at 7:32 am

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Members Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lefler, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

III. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

III.A REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED DESIGNS

Mr. Kost and Ms. Anderson gave a presentation of the site and went over the key attributes. Member Schwartz pointed out that the committee has voted on the five military emblems and will not be including the Merchant Marines emblem.

Mr. Kost informed the committee that they have been trading phone calls with the people from the Watershed District and thinks they are going to be okay with regard to that.

Mr. Kost and Ms. Anderson went over how the plaza will fit into the park and passed around some granite samples. Member Schwartz asked how high the granite base will be to which Mr. Kost replied currently they are suggesting the sculpture base be approximately six feet high and the eagle with the wreath approximately another six or seven feet above that.

Mr. Kost indicated that Mr. Keprios had made a great suggestion that rather than etching the service emblems into stone have them in a cast bronze and showed an example. Mr. Kost proposed to the committee a very serious yet simple bench. He pointed out how the benches would be a very sustainable wood, affixed to the ground and would be extremely difficult to vandalize. Mr. Keprios pointed out there may be some wisdom in leaving spaces for additions in the future rather than feeling everything needs to be done at this time.

Mr. Kost explained to the committee they now need to get closer in working with Mr. Eccleston on refining the whole wall feature, how the eagle sits, what kind of design the eagle is and whether it will be made of steel or bronze. He stated they are kind of honing in on bronze because they feel that steel requires more maintenance as well as it shows weather more. He added that obviously there will be some adjustments made to the plan. Member Schwartz stated at the last meeting he expressed a concern about the memorial becoming a playground for kids and throwing balls, etc. He noted that for the record he is satisfied that the memorial will be over six feet and does not think it will become an issue.

Mr. Keprios stated that he knows the committee had sent him on a charge to request that Mr. Kost have two or three different plans; however, he met with Mr. Kost and Ms. Anderson and agreed that it would be counterproductive and too costly to come up with three completely different plans. If the committee doesn't like the direction of this plan and feels they need to go in a different direction they can still do that; however, they need to be mindful of the budget. He stated that Mr. Kost felt there were enough things to move and shift around with the one plan rather than throwing out too many options and therefore needed to make a judgment call. Mr. Kost commented that, in addition, he knows the committee wants to start fundraising and felt this was the best memorial design for both the program and

the site. He also stated that he doesn't think there are three or four different things to come up with that would actually be able to meet the criteria.

Member Cardarelle asked Mr. Kost how he felt the benches would stand up after five or ten years. Mr. Kost replied that "IPE" wood is one of the few woods that have proven to be weather resistant. He explained that the metal on the bench is available in either a stainless steel or iodized aluminum so realistically the bench would be around longer than he will be around. He noted that if the committee would like to see something more garden like or modern or without a back the committee can think about and let him know. He added that they did look at using granite benches because they are very traditional with memorials but felt they are very cold and uncomfortable to sit on. Mr. Keprios pointed out another option is to use their standardized park benches which are inexpensive, beautiful redwood or cedar and are easy to repair. Member Kojetin stated that after a year he thinks wood benches look terrible and feels metal benches with a back are the only way to go.

Member Lonsbury stated that before they get into any more detail he wants to be sure that he understands correctly that the objective of this meeting is to look at the overall concept and at their next meeting they will get into a lot more into the details. Mr. Kost replied that some of the details will be coming from the committee in terms of the number of names, etc., but right now he wants to make sure that the committee feels that the shape, position of the overall design and where they've place the elements is meeting the needs and is something you are happy with.

Member Lefler stated that he has a concern of are they creating a skate park and if so is there anything that can be done about it. Mr. Kost replied that he doesn't think they are and the reason is because part of why they are suggesting the design they have is that it's very formal and what he would call more of a reverence kind of place. He stated that he doesn't think it poses the kind of challenges that skateboarders are going to necessarily opt for. In addition, some of it is going to be up to how it's policed and who inhabits the space. Skateboarders are going to feel out of sorts when there are adults all around. Mr. Kost pointed out that one thing they haven't suggested right now is a lot of devices to make it skateboard proof and noted that other than traveling on the pavement and the two stairways there really isn't much there for skateboarders to do. He commented you need to know about skateboarding to prevent skateboarding and went through a few suggestions for anti-skateboard protection.

Member Kojetin commented about having to go by the restrooms to get to the memorial which he feels isn't an ideal location to come into the memorial. He asked Mr. Keprios if there is any thought about expanding the restroom facilities. Mr. Keprios replied there has long been a need to upgrade the restrooms; however, but he does not intend for that to be part of this fundraising effort. Mr. Kost indicated that they did look at another option of coming out of the parking lot from another direction as the connection goes to the north but it starts to become redundant with the connection at 50th Street. He stated that he personally finds it to be an attractive building and the fact there are restrooms in it is very convenient. He noted that he doesn't find it offensive in the sense you are going by port-a-potty. In addition, they are also trying to be mindful of what you currently have and build off of that.

Member Lonsbury made a motion seconded by Member Lefler to accept the concept plan with the double star paving option as their intended design concept for moving ahead with fundraising.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lefler, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion Carried

Mr. Kost informed the committee that they have amped up the sculpture number from what they had initially told the artists, which was \$40,000, to now \$50,000 because they don't know when it's going to actually be built. He stated that costs are going up and learned from Mr. Eccleston that steel is going up even higher which is another reason they would recommend bronze and not steel for the focal point.

Member Christiaansen commented that in looking at the original rendering his thought is that it's a little open and he likes the idea of the black columns on the side because he feels it encloses the space a little bit more. He stated that he doesn't know if it's something they could maybe develop later on because he knows it's a matter of budget but if the budget was there he thinks they would be nice to have in place. Ms. Anderson replied that when you look at the cost they've actually listed those as options and noted that they can definitely be added. Member Christiaansen stated that it might make sense for them to have ideas on what they would like to put on them as far as quotes or something if they do end up having them. Member Schwartz indicated that he also likes the concept. Member Reed noted that he thinks there is a danger of having too many quotes and personally feels you can over quote yourself. He commented that even for them to pick a few quotes will be pretty tricky. Member Reed stated that another small detail they are going to have to agree on is how they are going to line up the five service emblems such as by age or alphabetical, etc. Ms. Anderson asked regarding the columns is that something that as they are developing and refining the plan that the committee would actually like to see on the plan or is it something to keep in the estimate that could be looked at in the future. Member Lefler stated that he would like to see them there because in terms of going to major donors and telling them they are going to get a bench as recognition is a little weak. If they put the columns in now it won't look like an afterthought for donor recognition away from the memorial. He indicated that they may or may not use them but they are in the plans and can be presented as a complete thought which he thinks would be helpful. Member Lonsbury commented that he is in agreement but he still likes the benches because by having multiple opportunities to recognize donors there can be different levels of donors.

Member Schwartz commented this may be a little too granuloze for the meeting but maybe they should consider putting the service emblems at the base of the flag and just put the names of those killed on the memorial so they stand out and maybe put a small number quotes on the sentry markers. Ms. Anderson asked the committee how they felt about putting the emblems at the base of the flags and off the actual memorial. Member Reed replied that he thinks it's apropos to have it similar to what is on the design simply because the eagle is bringing the wreath to all of the service members. If they were to put them on the base of the flags they would have to be placed lower as well as there are only three flags and so there wouldn't be enough space for the five emblems. Member Kojetin stated that he would disagree a little bit because if you put the services under the eagle that depicts the service and they need to include everyone: families, kids, etc., because they have not talked too much about the home front. Chair Goergen pointed out that they have talked about two different plaques: one, honoring those who lost their lives and the other one extensive verbiage in addition to a couple of quotes thanking the families, community, etc. He noted that he believes it was also mentioned there should be a notation about the future and looking forward, the legacy.

Member Lonsbury asked the chair if it was his intention for the group to try to draft what the copy is going to be on the individual markers or is there a subcommittee that has already been assigned to look at how many words there are and size, etc. Chair Goergen replied no one has been assigned to this; however, he has been taking some notes and has some ideas they could start with and modify as needed and he would be willing to do that. He stated that separate from the quotations he is talking about the acknowledgement of the KIAs and how they may be mounted by war or whatever and quotes and other verbiage they had talked about on a second tablet. Mr. Keprios suggested they give it to the Design/Architecture Committee and have everyone funnel their ideas to this committee for them to be able to propose something at the next meeting. Chair Goergen stated that he would be willing to do this as a subcommittee of one because he has collected some thoughts. Mr. Keprios replied that he thinks that assignment should go to the Design/Architecture Committee. Member Schwartz informed the committee that while doing his research he has come up with some amazing quotes from people that he would be glad to share and then the committee can decide what they would like to do with them.

Member Lonsbury indicated that coming from the advertising world it is one thing to develop the content of the words and doing research etc. However, it's another thing to decide how big the words are when you do the design and the layout and which order everything goes. It's the design and the figuring out how it's going to look and where it's going to go and how the elements are grouped. Right now it's not so much the content but how it's going to look on the monument and how big it will be and what type the face will be, etc.

Mr. Keprios informed the committee that a Park Board member mentioned a concern to him as to whether or not the committee will be proposing that they leave space to add names in the future. Member Schwartz replied that he thinks they have to. Mr. Keprios suggested adding some verbiage to the effect that says we honor all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and for all of those in the future and just leave it at that. Mr. Keprios pointed out there is a concern of who is going to make the decision in the future and what will be the criteria. He noted that it can go either way; criteria could be provided so that the Park Director in place at that time can make that call. He stated that he doesn't think it's their intent to keep this committee a committee forever. Member Schwartz replied that he thinks this was brought up in one of their first meetings. He noted if the monument is going to stand for 100 to 200 years it's naïve to think there are not going to be other names up there. He commented that he thought the committee had agreed that the Park Director at that time will make that decision with approval from the Park Board or whomever because he doesn't think they just can't close that off.

Member Schwartz informed the committee that in the book he is writing he does give credit to the Merchant Marines which acknowledge the value of their service. He noted if any issues were to come up regarding this he thinks they are covered.

Member Kojetin noted that there are few evergreens that he thinks should probably be removed in some areas. Ms. Anderson responded that when they have beautiful mature trees that are healthy why take them out. She noted they can be taken out over time but, if they are not being impacted by the construction and are not damaged they feel they should leave them.

Chair Goergen informed the committee he was contacted by an officer of the local chapter of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" (DAR) and they would like to give a grant in the area of \$1,500 for the American flag. This is something they have done throughout the country for various memorials. He stated that a red flag came up that in addition to the \$1,500 was included a cost of \$200.00 for a plaque that would acknowledge the DAR for funding the flag. He indicated an option would be for the DAR to come to a meeting to present it formally or should they just let them know because of the signage they cannot accept it because it is their policy there will be no acknowledgements. The committee, however, would be more than happy to accept any monies from the DAR they would like to give to the memorial project and they could even earmark it for one of the flags.

Member Lonsbury indicated that he thinks between fundraising and marketing there needs to be a meeting to discuss how they want to promote and handle all of this. He stated it would seem to him it's a wonderful donation and we appreciate the offer but the next step in terms of fundraising is to figure out what they are going to do with the donations and at what level you get your name on a stone, plaque, etc. Mr. Keprios informed the committee that the existing policy that has been approved by City Council states contributions have to be in excess of \$5,000 to have any kind of plaque at all. He pointed out there is currently a working group looking at the donation policy that is currently in place so that may change in the near future. Chair Goergen stated that would be a good reason to act now. Mr. Keprios replied that he thinks what the committee needs to decide is do you want the DAR to give you a formal presentation or is it mute. He stated that he thinks what he hears is the committee will be coming up with some criteria for donations; however, currently it would be in violation of city policy. Mr. Keprios noted that he will respond to DAR that currently their answer is no, but they would still appreciate any

donation and that there are other ways to be recognized to which the committee is currently working on a recognition program.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Member Cardarelle and seconded by Member Schwartz approving the meeting agenda.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lefler, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

V. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

V.A. Approval of the Friday, August 19, 2011 Veterans Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes

Member Schwartz stated there was a typo in the minutes where the name of one of the two people that were added should be "Hansord" not "Hansford".

Motion made by Member Lonsbury and seconded by Member Reed to approve the minutes with the change approving the consent agenda.

Ayes: Cardarelle, Christiaansen, Goergen, Kojetin, Lefler, Lonsbury, Reed, Schwartz

Motion carried.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

VI.A. Fundraising/Treasurer

Member Lefler informed the committee that he is meeting with Richard Olson next Thursday to discuss fundraising. He asked Mr. Keprios if it would be possible to get some type of computerized presentation device for the computer or ipad to be able to give a presentation to a potential donor. Mr. Keprios explained they need to get through the public process first before they can launch their fundraising campaign. However, that does not mean they can't start working on a plan and start generating presentations. Member Lonsbury indicated that before they pay an architect to do computer presentations that the city does have staff support and marketing people who can do it. He noted that they need to ask the architect for a digital copy of the printout they were given. He indicated that they should be coordinating to figure out what it is they want and how they want it and then coordinate with staff. He commented that he thinks they need to spend the next couple of weeks figuring out what they are going to say and when they are going to say it.

Member Reed asked Mr. Keprios to explain what the public process is at this point. Mr. Keprios explained that they will send out notices to the neighborhood as well as put in the Sun Current that there will be an open house where people can see what the plan is and ask any questions. He noted that the Park Board still needs to decide whether or not they will be holding an open house. He stated that the City Council will then hold a public hearing and if the City Council gives the okay they can move forward.

Chair Goergen indicated that it would be nice if they could somehow coordinate it with Veterans' Day. Maybe the formal announcement of what's approved could take place at the November 15th City Council meeting and at the same time they could announce that the formal fundraising will begin. He added that it would also be perfect timing to put something in the Sun Current.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am